

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 26

**Master Schedule
Thursday, June 25, 2026**

4:00-5:00 PM: General Session

Church Auditorium

Welcome & Prayer, **Pastor Scott Hooks**

Keynote Address, **Pastor Kenn Winn**

5:00-6:00 PM: Dinner

School Gymnasium

Breakout Sessions

Session	Time	Location	Contributor	Title
A	6:00-6:50 PM	Church Auditorium	Jordan & Wesley Rodgers	The Unbridled Potential of Nonspeakers
A	6:00-6:50 PM	Room 001	Brenda Riley	Enabled! Don't Be Afraid to Play in the Rain!
A	6:00-6:50 PM	Room 101	Dr. Dan Riley	Built for This: Encouragement for Fathers Raising Children with Special Needs
B	7:00-7:50 PM	Church Auditorium	Dr. Seth Kraus	Planning for the Future: Legal Tools to Support Your Child's Education and Lifelong Needs
B	7:00-7:50 PM	Room 201	Cheryl Boehme	The Importance of Executive Functioning Instruction
B	7:00-7:50 PM	Room 102	Charity Campbell	From Foundations to Flourishing: Supporting Classroom Readiness in Special Education

Special education classrooms will be open until 8:30 PM.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 26

**Master Schedule
Friday, June 26, 2026**

Breakout Sessions

Session	Time	Location	Contributor	Title
C	9:00-9:50 AM	Church Auditorium	Mindy Jones	Change a Life by Changing a Brain: Neuroplasticity for Special Needs, Part 1
C	9:00-9:50 AM	Room 101	Lauren Hickman	Ready, Set, Sustain
C	9:00-9:50 AM	Room 001	Sara Bookout	People Before Paper: Special Education Leadership in the Christian School
D	10:00-10:50 AM	Church Auditorium	Mindy Jones	Change a Life by Changing a Brain: Neuroplasticity for Special Needs, Part 2
D	10:00-10:50 AM	Room 201	Sunshine Meister	In Acceptance Lieth Peace
E	11:00-11:50 AM	Church Auditorium	Dr. Dan & Brenda Riley	Called for This: Serving God Through Special Education
E	11:00-11:50 AM	Room 001	Kara Rodgers	Welcome One and All!
E	11:00-11:50 AM	Room 101	Amy Robinson	Natural Support for Complex Children
Lunch in Gymnasium				
F	1:00-1:50 PM	Room 102	Joy Winn	Shepherding Every Heart: Balancing Neurodiversity in the Christian Family
F	1:00-1:50 PM	Room 201	Jessica Valente	Stubborn but Flexible: The Balance Every Special Educator Must Master
F	1:00-1:50 PM	Church Auditorium	Dr. Krista Smith	Ignite the Spark: Motivation for Every Learner
G	2:00-3:00 PM	School Gymnasium	Led by Meagan Hildebran	Q + A Panel Discussion for Parents
G	2:00-3:00 PM	Church Auditorium	Led by Dr. Lisa Joyner	Q + A Panel Discussion for Educators & Church Leaders

3:15-4:15 PM: General Session

Church Auditorium

Keynote Address, **Pastor & Mrs. David & Renee Gamble**

Special education classrooms will be open until 4:45 PM.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ***SUMMIT 26***

Thursday, June 25

4:00 PM-5:00 PM: General Session

Church Auditorium

Greeting & Prayer: **Pastor Scott Hooks**

Keynote: **Pastor Kenn Winn**, Campus Church

5:00-6:00 PM: Dinner

School Gymnasium

6:00-6:50 PM: Session A

Jordan & Wesley Rodgers, Temple Baptist Church & Academy

Church Auditorium

“The Unbridled Potential of Nonspeakers”

This session will help explain to people that even though we are the least in the body of Christ, we are not the least important and can have the same level of service even if it looks different. Different does not mean unimportant. We will learn how not to be prejudiced, rule out, or overlook; and how you can help us do what God wants us to do with our lives.

Brenda Riley, Inverness Christian Academy

Room 001

“Enabled! Don't Be Afraid to Play in the Rain”

For Ladies Only - What if the very things that feel overwhelming, distracting, or exhausting are the places where God is inviting you to live most freely? Being a mom or teacher to very special people is a wonderful and rewarding calling. Yet, it can easily feel like a world of constant noise, endless notifications, responsibilities, and expectations. If we're not careful we may find ourselves living in survival mode, unable to see the joy in an ordinary day. This workshop visits practical steps to building daily rhythms that are spiritually sustainable. And maybe - just maybe - by the time we're done, you'll discover courage to play in the rain.

Dr. Dan Riley, Inverness Christian Academy & Veritas Baptist College

Room 101

“Built for This: Encouragement for Fathers Raising Children with Special Needs”

For Men Only- Men are often expected to be the steady ones — the fixers, the providers, the strong shoulders. But what happens when your child’s needs can’t be “fixed”? As a father of an adult son with intellectual disabilities, adopted out of foster care at a very young age, I understand the quiet questions fathers carry: Am I doing enough? Am I strong enough? What does the future look like? This men-only workshop offers a safe and honest space for fathers raising children with disabilities to reflect, connect, and be encouraged. Drawing from both professional experience as a special educator and lived experience as a dad, this session explores resilience, leadership at home, navigating grief and hope, strengthening marriages and families, and redefining success on your child’s terms. Together, we will talk openly about the weight fathers carry, the strength required to stay present, and the legacy you are building every day. You will leave renewed in perspective, grounded in purpose, and reminded that you were built for this journey — and you do not have to walk it alone.

7:00-7:50 PM: Session B

Dr. Seth Kraus, Christian Law Association

Church Auditorium

“Planning for the Future: Legal Tools to Support Your Child’s Education and Lifelong Needs”

Navigating life before, during and after high school for a child with special needs can feel overwhelming, but the right legal and educational planning can provide lasting peace of mind. This session will guide parents through key steps in establishing guardianship, setting up a special needs trust, and coordinating educational services to protect their child’s rights and future. Attendees will learn practical strategies to ensure that their child’s educational, financial, and personal needs are supported well into adulthood.

Cheryl Boehme, Friendship Christian School

Room 201

“The Importance of Executive Functioning Instruction”

The importance of Executive Functioning instruction is critical to a well-rounded special education classroom. We will examine key skills and discuss a myriad of opportunities to help students mature in their executive functioning skills.

Charity Campbell, Hope Allen Center for Exceptional Children

Room 102

“From Foundations to Flourishing: Supporting Classroom Readiness in Special Education”

One of the most frequently asked questions we encounter in this field is, "Where do we start?" This session seeks to provide practical tools and techniques to help you establish foundational skills in a readiness classroom with young learners. Play, schedule structure, fine motor skills and foundational learning will all play a role in preparing these students to thrive in the classroom for years to come. Let's think outside the box of traditional education to help these young students not only survive their years of school, but flourish for God's glory.

Special education classrooms will be open until 8:30 PM.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 26

Friday, June 26

9:00-9:50 AM: Session C

Mindy Jones, Brain Connect

Church Auditorium

“Change a Life by Changing a Brain: Neuroplasticity for Special Needs, Part 1”

It's truly amazing how God designed our brains to be capable of change! By identifying and strengthening the weaker, underdeveloped areas, we can enhance overall brain function. Whether it's anxiety, learning disabilities, brain injuries, or degenerative disorders, a diagnosis doesn't have to be final. Discover how to foster neuroplasticity in both the classroom and everyday life.

Lauren Hickman, Hope Allen Center for Exception Children & Wonderfully Made

Room 101

“Ready, Set, Sustain”

3 Weeks Before Launch. 3 Months In. 3 Years Down the Road. Launching a church disability ministry is one thing. Sustaining it is another. In this practical, high-impact session, Lauren walks through what matters most at every stage. Classroom setup, intake forms, and first-Sunday integration before you launch; volunteer training, clear behavior plans, and sensory understanding in the early months; and long-term systems for handling hard conversations, disruptive behaviors, and lasting sustainability. Whether you're weeks from opening your doors or years into refining what you've built, you'll leave with clarity, confidence, and tools you can implement immediately.

Sara Bookout, Hope Allen Center for Exceptional Children

Room 001

“People Before Paper: Special Education Leadership in the Christian School”

To-do lists, emails, phone calls, and paperwork constantly compete for a school leader's attention—and while efficiency matters, it must never eclipse what matters most. *People Before Paper: Special Education Leadership in the Christian School* invites leaders to reexamine their approach through a relational, Gospel-centered lens. Administrative tasks are necessary, but this session calls participants to intentionally keep Christ and His image-bearers at the center of every decision. Attendees will explore how to lead with wisdom, compassion, and clarity while navigating the demands of policies, meetings, and accountability. With a focus on building trust, fostering meaningful collaboration, and streamlining systems, this session equips leaders to cultivate a culture where students with diverse learning needs are not merely accommodated, but truly known, faithfully supported, and encouraged to flourish both academically and spiritually.

10:00-10:50 AM: Session D

Mindy Jones, Brain Connect

Church Auditorium

“Change a Life by Changing a Brain: Neuroplasticity for Special Needs, Part 2”

This workshop features practical, step-by-step demonstrations of primitive reflex, sensorimotor, core, and timing exercises that are foundational to the Melillo Method. Participants will learn how these exercises can be implemented to support brain development for improved performance in learning and daily activities.

Sunshine Meister, Tabernacle Christian School

Room 201

“In Acceptance Lieth Peace”

As Christian parents, we plead with God from the first moment of our awareness of the new life He is adding to our family for Him to save our children and use them for His glory. Often we envision our children serving in Christian ministry, walking in faithful Christian service in their families and churches, or speaking the name of Christ as ambassadors for Christ. God reminds us in Isaiah 55:8, however, that “my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” When God’s “higher” ways and thoughts for our children involve the loss of their words or the loss of their ability to walk or the loss of their ability to serve God in ways that we envisioned, the call upon us as parents of these children with special needs is to acceptance and submission knowing “As for God, his way is perfect (Psalm 18:30). I speak not as an at-arms-length pedantic who has mastered acceptance and submission, but as Nahum’s mom who still misses his voice, feels sadness at his limitations, and (selfishly?) avoids the pictures and videos from “Before.” As Nahum’s mom and a disciple and lover of Jesus Christ, however, I simultaneously long to worship Jesus and trust Him implicitly because He is worthy of every breath and gift that I can offer to Him. Do you feel the tension of mourning and acceptance? Come join me to provoke one another “unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:24).

11:00-11:50 AM: Session E

Dr. Dan & Brenda Riley, Inverness Christian School & Veritas Baptist College

Church Auditorium

“Called for This: Serving God Through Special Education”

This workshop is a heartfelt reminder that special education is more than a profession - it is a divine calling. Join us as we discuss how each individualized lesson plan, each breakthrough moment, each act of encouragement becomes an offering to God. You are not here by accident. You are equipped, appointed, and sustained by the One who has called you! Let's explore this together.

Kara Rodgers, Temple Baptist Church & Academy

Room 001

“Welcome One and All!”

This session will discuss the impact of the first impression of our churches for the special needs family. We will look at simple ways we can welcome and include families and individuals impacted by disabilities. What can we do if we don't have an official Disabilities Ministry? What can we do if space, volunteers, and resources are limited? Probably more than you think! We'll also look at a very practical tool that can be designed to fit your individual ministry's needs and be useful in making a place for those with extra needs that the Lord brings your way.

Amy Robinson, Homeopathy & Vitality

Room 101

“Natural Support for Complex Children”

During this session we will dive into what homeopathy is and how it can support your child and family. We will also cover common nutritional deficiencies and symptoms that present in complex children. The main goal of this presentation is to give a starting point for families that want to learn more natural medicine that will help their child alongside conventional medicine when needed.

12:00-1:00 PM: Lunch

School Gymnasium

1:00-1:50 PM: Session F

Joy Winn, Campus Church

Room 102

“Shepherding Every Heart: Balancing Neurodiversity in the Christian Family”

In homes where neurotypical and neurodivergent children grow side by side, parents are called to shepherd very different needs with equal love. This session blends encouragement with actionable parenting insight, helping families create structure, nurture sibling unity, and reflect the heart of Christ in daily challenges. This resource affirms that neurological differences are not obstacles to faith but part of God's purposeful design within the Body of Christ.

Jessica Valente, Hope Allen Center for Exceptional Children

Room 201

“Stubborn but Flexible: The Balance Every Special Educator Must Master”

In special education, success requires a powerful balance: being stubborn about student potential while remaining flexible in instructional approach, and not being afraid of hard. This session explores what it means to refuse to give up on students, academically, behaviorally, and socially all while continually adjusting strategies to meet their unique needs. Participants will learn how to identify non-negotiable goals, pivot when interventions aren't working, use data to guide decisions, and collaborate effectively with teams and families. Through practical examples, real-life scenarios, and actionable frameworks, educators will leave equipped to persevere through challenges with confidence and clarity. You will leave ready to say, “We worked through it,” no matter how hard the journey.

Dr. Krista Smith, Shenandoah Baptist Academy & Veritas Baptist College

Church Auditorium

“Ignite the Spark: Motivation for Every Learner”

Grounded in both educational research and a biblical understanding of human purpose, this workshop will explore distinct motivational styles and how recognizing individual student needs can positively impact classroom dynamics. Educators and parents will be introduced to practical strategies for connecting with students who appear disengaged or unmotivated, learning how to tap into their intrinsic motivations in meaningful and effective ways. Participants will be encouraged to view motivation not as a one-size-fits-all solution, but as a God-honoring opportunity to reach and nurture the heart of each learner.

2:00-3:00 PM: Session G

Q+ A Panel Discussion For Parents

School Gymnasium

Led by Meagan Hildebran

Q + A Panel Discussion for Educators & Church Leaders

Church Auditorium

Led by Dr. Lisa Joyner

3:15-4:15 PM: General Session

Church Auditorium

Keynote: Pastor David & Mrs. Renee Gamble